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NEWS TALK SPORTS

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LONDON

**metro**®

Wednesday, November 2, 2011  
www.metronews.ca



News worth sharing.



► Denise Polgar was not talking through her hat when she set out to collect 1,500 purple caps to raise awareness of shaken baby syndrome. She ended up with more than 5,200 creations made by volunteers from as far away as Sweden.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

# Hats off, Londoners!

- Shaken-baby-syndrome awareness campaign receives overwhelming response
- Purple hats are meant to remind parents that crying is normal for newborns



ANGELA MULLINS  
@METRONEWS.CA

One might say Denise Polgar pulled off a hat trick, and then some.

Polgar, an injury-prevention specialist at the London Health Sciences Centre and Children's Hospital, set out last December with the goal of collecting 1,500 purple hats from local knitters and crocheters.

What she got — more than 5,200 caps from as far away as Sweden — far outweighed anything she had expected.

"I actually was worried that we weren't going to be able to do it," Polgar said yesterday as she sat in the middle of the donated headgear.

The hats will be distributed to parents of newborn babies at birthing wards across southwest Ontario. They are tied to a larger campaign launched by the U.S. National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome in Ogden, Utah.

While the goal of the campaign is to prevent shaken baby syndrome, there's also a focus on bringing parents into the baby-crying loop.

## What is it?

- Shaken baby syndrome refers to neurological changes in a baby that stem from destroyed brain cells, according to the U.S. National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome.
- In many cases, there is no external evidence of trauma.
- About 20 per cent of cases are fatal within the first few days after shaking.
- Most survivors are left with learning disorders or behavioural changes.

Parents are taught about what's been dubbed the Period of PURPLE Crying, in the hope that the information will help them better deal with baby's cranky mood.

The key messages follow along the acronym PURPLE — peak crying age for infants, unexpected crying, resistance to soothing methods, pained expressions, long bouts of uncontrollable crying and evening hours when crying generally increases.

Children's Hospital at the London Health Sciences Centre has adopted the campaign. You can learn more at Dontshake.org.

## Dash of Christmas

## Charge of the light brigade

► City elves are busy at work creating annual Winter Wonderland {page 3}



## Hot sparks

Rating Chevy's new electric car {page 16}

## Jack of all trades

Toronto Blue Jays' Edwin Encarnacion to play DH and left field next season {page 13}

## As gourd as it gets

Delicious ways to use up all that leftover pumpkin {page 11}

# 1 news



A study of U.S. nurses broadens the apparent link between breast cancer and alcohol consumption to include light drinkers. Scan the code.

To scan 2D barcodes in Metro, download the free ScanLife app at 2dscan.com.

On the web at [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca)

The month of October brought welcome relief to investors, but Allan Small warns that we're not out of the woods yet. More at [metronews.ca/investing](http://metronews.ca/investing)

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## Shaved. Faces



► Amway employees, from left, Grant Wren, Jason Menard and Garth Sinker shave their faces yesterday morning.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

## Get your moustache ready for Movember

Several men from Amway took part in the shave-off to make sure the playing field is equal for their Movember challenge. For a look at the community-wide approach to Movember — a month-long initiative where men grow moustaches to raise money and awareness for prostate cancer — check out [Facebook.com/MovemberLondon](http://Facebook.com/MovemberLondon). Also, pick up the Nov. 8 Metro for your Movember guide.

# Food banks in demand: Official

► Local data shows food-bank usage nowhere near returning to post-recession levels ► Some of this year's dip in users may be attributed to families receiving HST rebates, official says



ANGELA MULLINS  
@METRONEWS.CA

A local official is urging people to read a little bit deeper than the headline on a national report about the number of people using food banks.

While the annual study by Food Banks Canada shows a slight downward trend in the number of

people receiving assistance, that dip is based on record highs, said Mary Ann McDowell, operations co-ordinator at the London Food Bank.

"When they are saying that, they're not looking at the whole picture," McDowell said about reports indicating things are improving. "Our numbers are still up, they're just not up over last year."

A more accurate approach, McDowell said, is to base everything around pre-recession statistics.

The recession started in late 2008, and the food bank started seeing the real impact in 2009, she said.

In 2008, the food bank served 2,500 families a month on average. That number jumped to 3,100 in 2009 and held nearly steady at 3,049 in 2010.

## 850,000

Number of people who relied on food handouts during a one-month snapshot taken this year by Food Banks Canada.

This year, an average of 2,900 to 3,000 families are receiving help each

month, McDowell said. Before 2009, the food bank's record high was 2,875 families in a month.

"That's less than our average now," McDowell said.

The national study showed food-bank usage was down two per cent from a 2010 record high, but remains 26 per cent higher than before the recession.

## Hit-and-run suspect sought

London police are looking for the driver of a minivan that hit a seven-year-old trick-or-treater as the child ran across a street at about 8:15 p.m. on Monday.

Sgt. Tom O'Brien said the accident happened along Ernest Avenue near Rosamond Crescent in the

city's south end.

The vehicle involved may be a Pontiac Montana, he said.

The child's injuries were not life-threatening, O'Brien said. Anyone with information is asked to call 519-661-5670, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. ● METRO

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► Dave Evans, a contractor for the city, straightens out extension cords yesterday afternoon while powering up Christmas lights along Wellington Road. Evans has been charged with the task for nearly 20 years.

# Christmastime in the Forest City

► Operation Add a Dash of Christmas well underway



ANGELA MULLINS  
@METRONEWS.CA

Thanksgiving is long gone and Halloween's old news.

That means there's only one big holiday left for 2011, and city workers are putting their noses to the grindstone to deliver some of the first doses of Christmas cheer.

Thousands of soon-to-be-twinkling lights are being wrapped around trees and shrubbery across the city. The work started a little more than a week ago with the goal of having a lot of yuletide spirit ready for the Santa Claus parade on Nov. 12.

Getting the whole kit

and caboodle — including the nearly 500 snowflakes and stars that will adorn downtown light posts — up and running will take well into next month.

"It probably takes five weeks or so to get them all up, and two to three weeks to take them all down," John Parsons, the city's division manager of transportation and roadside operations, said about holi-

day decorations.

Given that timeline, the city will be more than ready for a mighty sparkle when the lights are officially flipped on Nov. 25 during the grand unveiling of Victoria Park's Winter Wonderland.

While the Forest City's Christmas makeover takes a lot of manpower and a little planning, it generally falls together seamlessly, Parsons said. The biggest annual hitch is pretty much out of everyone's control.

"Usually, we just have to contend with the squirrels. They chew on the cords," Parsons said. "It's quite amazing how often you have to go out and fix them."

## Hit the lights

► The official opening of the Winter Wonderland in Victoria Park will start at 6:15 p.m. on Nov. 25. The lights will be switched on at 6:50 p.m.

# Wood conviction a victory, lawyer says



ANGELA MULLINS  
@METRONEWS.CA

Royden Wood's conviction on three of five sexual-assault charges is a victory for all women victimized by an abuse of power, lawyer Phillip Millar said.

"These kinds of cult leaders get people under their control and say ... 'They consented to sex,'" Millar said about the former Ambassador Baptist Church pastor. "When you have a religious cult, the leader of that cult can get women to do things under the pretense of it being godly."

Millar said it's the same attitude that affected his client John Milonas, who filed a civil lawsuit against Wood in August.

"His abuse of power was rampant throughout



► Phillip Millar

the church," Millar said yesterday.

Milonas is seeking \$1.5 million in damages and says he was abused and tortured from 1985 to 1987 while attending the church's school. Wood was convicted in April 2008 of sex-related crimes and 12 counts of assault, including some pertaining to Milonas.

## The case

- Sentencing is Jan. 20.
- Decision closes the book on abuse dating back more than a decade.
- Royden Wood has denied having any sexual contact with his accusers. His legal-defence team says each woman has a different motive for testifying against him.

In the case jurors decided yesterday, five women testified they had sex with Wood in various locations including the church office, vehicles and the pastor's bedroom.

The women said they were forced into sex while seeking counsel from Wood for various issues.

WITH FILES FROM AM980/AM980.CA

## Medallist joins ice show

Olympic medallist Joannie Rochette joins Winter Dreams on Ice, as some of Canada's top figure skaters return to London for the second year in a row.

Cynthia Phaneuf, Jeff Buttle, Steven Cousins, Christina Gao, Shawn Sawyer and Emanuel Sandhu are some of the other skaters who will take the ice at the John Labatt Centre on Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. ● METRO

## Methadone clinic ban extended

London's year-long ban on new methadone clinics won't be ending any time soon. The built natural and environment committee voted Monday night to extend the ban until at least March 15, 2012.

The extension is designed to give the city more time to review a proposed new policy to deal with methadone clinics.

The new policy was released for the first time last week. AM980/AM980.CA

## Tourney to honour teacher's memory

A ball hockey tournament this weekend will honour the memory of Dave Richards, a teacher at Clarke Road Secondary School who died last year after a battle with cancer.

The four-on-four adult co-ed tournament at 17 Clarke Rd. is sponsored by the London Abused Women's Centre and Ball Hockey International.

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## Charity. Chop



► Chef Richard Julien of Chef Live carves a 600-pound pumpkin with a chainsaw at Halifax Seed yesterday.

HEATHER GILLIS/FOR METRO

## Getting messy for a good cause

Julien says he plans to use the leftovers for this year's Pumpkins for Prostate pie-making fundraiser.

# Manipulation is key in sex trade

► Police investigator says relationship is exploitative



JAMES TURNER

@METRONEWS.CA

METRO CANADA IN WINNIPEG

A mind for business, a measure of online savvy and a mendacious ability to manipulate using influence, not force.

These are among the attributes some who operate illegal sex-trade enterprises

share, a report authored by a veteran Winnipeg police morals unit investigator suggests.

For more than a decade, Sgt. Gene Bowers has been the city's go-to expert for police when it comes to probing Winnipeg's sex-trade underworld.

The Crown requested Bowers file a statement of opinion regarding the case

of a woman awaiting sentencing for running a bawdy house in Winnipeg.

"There are a number of overt and oppressive strategies that bawdy-house keepers, escort services, massage-parlour owners and pimps can use to procure people into prostitution or keep them from leaving the sex-trade," Bowers said in his report.

But often, a common tactic operators employ to keep people working for them is to befriend them and let them believe they're engaged in a joint business relationship, he said.

# Arson behind massive Slave Lake fire: Officials

IAN JACKSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE



► A home destroyed by the fire in Slave Lake.

The Alberta government says it believes arson was behind a wildfire that ravaged the town of Slave Lake last spring.

Frank Oberle, minister of sustainable resources, yesterday said that the file has been turned over to the RCMP.

"It's extremely disappointing and my heart goes out to the people that lost homes or property," Oberle told a news conference.

"This further exacerbates that."

He said his investigators have determined it was arson because they've ruled out all other possible causes for the blaze, which took out 400 homes and businesses on May 15. He wouldn't say how they've definitively ruled out the fire was not set accidentally, such as by a careless

camper failing to properly extinguish a fire.

"Our investigation eliminated all natural, industrial or accidental causes."

Oberle said investigators have determined where the fire started, but he wouldn't give the co-ordinates.

"We know there was no lightning at that site, no power-line malfunction and no campfire located at that site, so a process of elimination gets us to the only reasonable conclusion." THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Costly disaster

- Total damage was pegged at \$700 million, which insurance adjusters estimate makes it the second-costliest disaster next to the Quebec-Ontario ice storm of 1998, which cost about \$1.8 billion.
- The fire forced all 7,000 residents to leave for two weeks as fire crews completed salvage work and police secured the area.
- No one was hurt, but a fire-fighting helicopter pilot crashed on Lesser Slave Lake and died. There were 1,400 firefighters deployed along with 170 helicopters and tankers.
- The province delivered almost \$300 million in aid, including millions for modular homes for residents who lost everything.

## 6th suspicious package found at party store

Bomb-squad robots were back at work at a Toronto costume store yesterday after two more suspicious packages were found at the business, bringing the total to six.

Police say officers checking Amazing Party and Costume found the sixth package around noon.

Toronto police Insp. Gerry Cashman says the devices had the potential to cause serious injuries and death along with property damage if they went off. The store was shut over the weekend.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Cancer our biggest killer: SatsCan

A new report says cancer and heart disease were responsible for just over half of Canada's 238,617 deaths in 2008.

And Statistics Canada reports cancer was the leading cause of death in every province and territory for the first time.

The agency says heart disease was the second-leading cause of death in every province and territory in 2008 — except Nunavut, where suicide ranked second.

Cancer accounted for 30 per cent of all deaths in 2008.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Canadian, family freed from Saudi jail

A Canadian man, his wife and two young children have been released after spending more than a month in a Saudi Arabian prison.

A senior government official says Majeed Uddin Ahmed and his family have been released on bail and given 25 days to leave Saudi Arabia.

The official says Canadian authorities are arranging travel documents so that the family can return to Canada. Canadian officials have said the charges were "minor," apparently related to alleged visa violations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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# MY PROTEST WILL LAST LONGER THAN KIM'S MARRIAGE

JUST  
SAYIN' ...

PAUL SULLIVAN  
METRO



That's it.

I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore.

Today, the news wires are clogged with the pathetic denouement of the Kardashian

marriage. Kim, famous for nothing, dissolved her \$10-million wedding 72 days after she and collateral damage Kris Humphries collected a cool \$17.8 million for royalties from the vastly overblown event.

How do I know all this? All I had to do was go to my home page, iGoogle, and there were 2,968 Kardashian stories available for my edification.

At the same time Syria put land mines along the border with Lebanon, but that was a real yawner warranting a mere 360 articles. Do the math. That's 10 times more articles about Kim Kardashian than impending war between Syria and Lebanon.

This much ado about nothing comes at a time when journalists are whining about how our precious profession is being twittered to death by ducks. The truth is, what's really killing the news is a serious overdose of Kim Kardashian.

Of course, there wouldn't be any Kim Kardashian news if the public didn't want it. What's wrong with you people? Had enough of Jennifer Aniston?

Still, I wonder about all those otherwise grownup professionals who filed copy about the world's foremost phoney and her feckless boy-toy. It reminds me of the Richard Brautigan poem I Feel Horrible. She Doesn't: "I wander around the house like a sewing machine that's just finished sewing a turd to a garbage can lid."

As a protest against this outrage against humanity, I will Occupy the Internet until it stops.

I don't want to hear any more mealy mouthed arguments for "celebrity" journalism and "reality" TV, the Kardashian spawning ground.

I don't want to hear any more nonsense about how journalism is threatened by technology or the Mayan Calendar or global warming. It's threatened by bad choices. All we have to do is stop writing about Kim Kardashian. And other pointless phenomena.

I'm OK with confining Justin Bieber and Jennifer Aniston to the entertainment pages, although the actual form of entertainment has yet to be determined. But enough about Kim Kardashian's \$10-million phoney marriage, which could feed the one billion people on this planet who go hungry every night. That's just wrong.

I know, it's hard to Occupy the Internet, as that's the whole point of the Internet. There's no there there. But that doesn't stop Kim Kardashian, who does it every day.

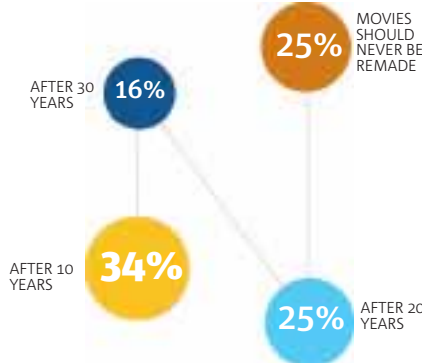
So it won't stop me either. This is my tent. I'm staying until they drag me away.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at [metronews.ca/justsaying](http://metronews.ca/justsaying)



Register at  
[metropolitanpanel.ca](http://metropolitanpanel.ca)  
and take the quick poll

How soon is too soon to remake a film?



## Letters

Human sexuality is a wonderful and complex phenomenon and we can't always easily answer questions like "Am I gay?" or "Am I bisexual?" without deeper introspection. If you have identified your sexual orientation, and you are gay or lesbian, you may be struggling to come to terms with it.

In Dr. Richard Niolon's coming-out process he identifies five stages a person can follow:

1. Self-recognition as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT).
2. Disclosure to others.
3. Socialization with other LGBT.
4. Positive self-identification.
5. Integration and acceptance, where you are open about your sexuality to yourself, even if you prefer being discreet about it.

The most difficult part of this five-step program is Step 1 — acknowledging and accepting your sexual orientation.

While the Canadian law is extremely supportive of gay and lesbian rights, in the end, psychological and emotional support are equally important.

ALEX SANGHA  
SOCIAL WORKER  
DELTA, B.C.



► This photo titled **No Man is an Island** was submitted to the Relationships category by Louise Bourgeois from Ottawa.

## photo of the day

Metro invites its readers to join the Metro Global Photo Challenge — running in 100 cities on four continents — to win fantastic prizes and world-wide recognition. Enter your digital photos at [metrophotochallenge.com](http://metrophotochallenge.com). The contest runs until Nov. 22. As well as a chance to win a trip to any city Metro publishes, one submission will also be featured here daily.

## WEIRD NEWS

### Resorts have gone to the dogs

You are spending the holidays with Aunt Nellie in Kansas. Your dog will be staying in a hotel suite called Neiman Barcus with a flat-screen TV. There might be surf lessons, catered meals, a massage, pawdicure, spa bath and photo shoot.

Boarding your pet has changed a lot over the past decade. If money is no object, there is no end to the extravaganzas you can order for your pet. The Barkley Pet Hotel & Day Spa — which really does have a Neiman Barcus suite — is a one-of-a-kind animal funhouse

REED SAXON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Yorkshire terrier  
Betsey Johnson

in Westlake Village, northwest of Los Angeles. You can rent a Serenity Suite for \$44 a night or reserve a storefront suite on Rodeo Drive or Hollywood Boulevard (they start at \$72.50 a night). Add-ons include day-camp sessions, limousine pickup and delivery, surf lessons, charm school, a mud mask, obedience training, holiday fur-dyeing and filet mignon.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Canuck auto sales are up, but not by much: Analyst

Automakers saw healthy Canadian sales growth last month as consumers appeared ready to shop for vehicles again after a slow September.

Canadian vehicle sales were up 2.1 per cent to 125,680 vehicles in October compared to 123,154 a year earlier, according to DesRosiers Automotive. That compared to a 0.4 per cent annual decline in September.

It has been an uneven year for automakers — one that is expected to finish with slightly higher sales than last year.

Consumer confidence has been shaky over fears the global economy could sink back into another recession, while rising oil and gas prices have been taking a bigger toll on finances.

Japanese automakers have also faced inventory shortages and production constraints since the earth-

quake and tsunami hit the island country in March.

Sales in Canada for the first 10 months of the year are up about 1.5 per cent at 1.3 million units.

"The reality is that, because our market is now back to a normal healthy level, that we're not going to get much in terms of sharp gains from here," said Scotiabank auto analyst Carlos Gomes.

Pent-up demand helped October sales for the Japanese automakers as drivers waiting for popular models were able to buy them as inventories improved. Gomes believes that incentive programs also helped to boost sales last month.

GM Canada managed to beat both Ford and Chrysler last month, though Ford Canada remains the top-selling automaker in the country so far this year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Comparing notes

- ▶ **GM Canada:** Nine per cent growth from last October, with 19,542 vehicles sold.
- ▶ **Ford Canada:** October sales fell 2.4 per cent to 19,190 units from a year earlier.
- ▶ **Toyota Canada:** Sales up three per cent, to 14,980 for October.
- ▶ **Honda Canada:** Sales fell 13 per cent year-over-year to 11,232 vehicle.
- ▶ **Kia Canada Inc.:** Sales up 15.4 per cent from a year ago to 5,180.
- ▶ **Volvo Cars of Canada Corp.:** Sales up 13 per cent to 490.
- ▶ **BMW Group Canada:** 2,863 retails in October, an increase of 1.1 per cent over October 2010.
- ▶ **Subaru Canada:** Monthly sales fell 4.8 per cent to 2,314 vehicles.
- ▶ **Hyundai Canada:** Sold 10,242 vehicles, a 12.1 per cent increase from a year ago.

▶ Protesters dressed as prisoners gathered outside the Greek parliament in Athens yesterday during an event against the government's proposed austerity measures.



# Greek bailout referendum throws Europe for a loop

- ▶ Opposition calls for resignation of prime minister
- ▶ Cabinet gives its unanimous support to public vote

The Greek government teetered and global stock markets plummeted yesterday after a hard-won European plan to save the Greek economy was thrown into doubt by the prospect of a public vote.

One day after Prime Minister George Papandreou stunned Europe by calling for a referendum, ripples reached from Athens, where some lawmakers rebelled against him, to Wall Street, where the Dow Jones industrial average plunged almost 300 points.

Papandreou convened his ministers yesterday, insisting his call for a referen-

**60% A recent poll said that 60 per cent of Greeks were against the austerity measures, while other polls showed broad support for the remaining eurozone.**

dum, likely to take place in January if approved. Papandreou said the Greek people were being called on to determine whether or not they wanted the new deal. He acknowledged there would be adverse market reaction. The only other option, he said, would have been early elections.

The decision could upend a deal for a second bailout for Greece that would also shore up European economies. Its rejection could cause bank failures in Europe, a new European recession, and could see Greece leave the European Union.

European leaders made no secret of their displeasure. "Giving the people a say is always legitimate, but the solidarity of all countries of the eurozone cannot work unless each one consents to the necessary efforts," said French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Google ebooks enter market

Google launched its ebooks platform in Canada yesterday, providing more competition for retailers

Amazon and Kobo. Titles purchased at the Google ebooks store will be stored online and accessible on many devices, including Android and Apple tablets and smartphones, PCs and compatible e-readers such

as the Kobo, Barnes & Noble's Nook and Sony's Reader. Hundreds of thousands of titles will be available, in addition to more than two million public domain books available for free.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Oil	Natural gas
	
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	Gold
	\$1,711.80 (- \$13.40)

# Respect for referendum: Carney

► Bank of Canada governor says plebiscite in Greece may build support needed for austerity

Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney says he respects the Greek prime minister's controversial call for a referendum on a new bailout package, saying the vote could be useful if it helps build support for necessary austerity.

But within hours, the question of whether such a vote would take place was up in the air as members of George Papandreou's government threatened to re-

volt over the surprise announcement.

With events in a flux, a confidence vote was planned for Friday raising the prospect of a government collapse and more uncertainty over last week's European deal meant to simultaneously bail out Greece and backstop banks.

The new crisis adds even more pressure on G20 leaders to bring a sense of calm to situation and restore

market confidence that policy-makers know what they are doing.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty described the situation as "fragile and uncertain," to the Commons finance committee.

Meanwhile, Ontario Finance Minister Dwight Duncan said the impact of the Greek debt crisis on financial markets shows "how interdependent the world economies are."

Carney said that he still expects bailout measures will contain the situation — "but that's different than resolving the issues, (which) ... is going to take years." Details still need to be ironed out and Europe must implement the initiatives, and there may still be additional measures needed, he cautioned.

Markets will be looking for G20 leaders to unveil more details at the two-day

summit in Cannes, starting Thursday, where Carney is to be confirmed as new head of the Financial Stability Board, placing the Canadian central banker at the forefront of measures to reform global financial markets.

Carney told the committee the European debt crisis remains the biggest concern for the global economy as well as Canada's.

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## Scene at a glance



Jimmy Kimmel is going to be cracking jokes for the U.S. president. The White House Correspondents' Association says the Jimmy Kimmel Live! host will be the featured comedian at its 98th annual dinner next year. Association president Caren Bohan said yesterday that the 43-year-old entertainer was chosen because his "humour is sophisticated and edgy while appealing to a wide audience." The White House Correspondents' Association dinner is traditionally attended by the president and his wife, along with various government officials and members of the press corps. Kimmel said in a statement that he is looking forward to being part of the event on April 28, 2012, adding, "I love dinner."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



From Ugly Betty to foxy Roxie: America Ferrera to play the Chicago femme fatale in London

# Putting the 'X' in Xmas

It's been six years since their Guantanamo Bay adventure Harold and Kumar are back with ridiculous yuletide antics Watch as they burn down the Christmas tree and party with Jesus

## IN FOCUS

RICHARD CROUSE  
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA



The week after Halloween is a strange time to be writing about Christmas movies. Almost like cooking a Thanksgiving dinner in July.

But if department stores can display Lady Gaga masks beside Christmas ornaments and Hollywood can release A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas while we're still digesting our Halloween haul, I can write about some movies that put the tinsel in Tinsel Town.

Harold and Kumar isn't your average Christmas movie.

I doubt Jimmy Stewart would have considered burning down the family Christmas tree part of his wonderful Yuletide life, but Harold and Kumar aren't the first to put the X into Xmas.

Many movies are set at Christmastime — the Brat Packer flick Less Than Zero features an LA Yule, and Die Hard takes place on Christmas Eve — but I'm thinking of movies that use the holidays as a springboard for the action.

The raunchiest Christ-



► John Cho as Harold, left, Neil Patrick Harris as himself and Kal Penn as Kumar in A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas.

mas movie has to Bad Santa, starring Billy Bob Thornton as a boozed-up, thieving department store Kris Kringle.

Unsentimental and crude, Bad Santa is bound to make the elves choke on their eggnog.

Dan Aykroyd also played a less than cuddly Santa in Trading Places. Drunk, disorderly and waving a gun around, he even has a fish hidden in his fake beard.

Unwrap Mixed Nuts, the 1994 Nora Ephron black comedy, and you'll find Christmas tree theft, lunatics and the worst Christmas gift ever: a dead body.

Staying up on Christmas Eve, waiting for Santa to come, will be easy after watching Black Christmas. You'll be too scared to sleep!

The tinsel terror about a mysterious killer in the attic is considered to be

the first modern slasher movie.

Gremlins mixes horror, humour and ho ho ho's. Set at Christmas, the story of little creatures who turn nasty when wet features a gory story about a missing father, a chimney, an overstuffed Santa suit and the punchline, "And that's how I found out there was no Santa Claus."

A very merry Crime Christmas can be had in both The Ref and Rein-

deer Games.

In The Ref, cat burglar Dennis Leary soon regrets breaking into the home of squabbling couple Kevin Spacey and Judy Davis on Christmas Eve.

Reindeer Games sees Ben Affleck reluctantly rob a casino at Christmas.

The movie is such a lump of coal that one of its stars had this to say about it: "That was a bad, bad, bad movie," said Charlize Theron.

## Taking the kiddie out of kid lit

Having never been a fan of traditional children's books, author Douglas Coupland decided it'd be fun to reinterpret the genre in a way that isn't suitable for most kids.

His new book Highly Inappropriate Tales for Young People, which he created with Canadian illustrator Graham Roumieu, probably won't be a big hit with parents.

But Coupland says he would have loved to have

read something like it when he was young.

"I never read kids books, I hated them, I sort of thought they pandered to you," Coupland said in an interview. "If I had found this book when I was a kid I would've been, 'Yes! This confirms everything I thought about adulthood! And I would've been quite happy, I think.'"

The book is more likely to be stocked in bookstores by Adam Mansbach and Ri-



► Douglas Coupland

cardo Cortes' Go the (Bleep) to Sleep, than with with Dr. Seuss or Robert Munsch titles.

"I don't know who's going to read it, if it's kids,

"Kids books in general, I think, treat kids like they're dumb."

AUTHOR DOUGLAS COUPLAND

or maybe it's like you buy it and say, 'Kids, whatever you do, don't read this book' — and then hide it some place easy to find," says Coupland.

"Or hide it with a pack of cigarettes."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### Evil characters

Coupland's seven short stories feature characters like Donald the Incredibly Hostile Juice Box, who is made up of a little fruit juice and sugar, but mostly evil.

► He lives to torment other juice boxes by stabbing their foil straw holes and spilling out their insides.  
► Or there's Sandra the Truly Dreadful Babysitter, who stays employed despite forcing children to shoplift and dabble in arson.



# Death-defying Johnny Depp

► Star has surprising reaction when engines stop on private plane with director Bruce Robinson



► Johnny Depp

Johnny Depp had a brush with death on a private plane recently, but at least he's taking it well.

"The plane just shut down. The sound of the engines stopped," Depp tells Life magazine of a flight he took with the Rum Diary director Bruce Robinson.

"Bruce and I were looking at each other and I think I said, 'Is this it?' It was like this weird extended moment when you're just floating for a second and you could feel this unpleasant descent."

The Pirates of the Caribbean star quickly realized what was happening, but his reaction wasn't expected.

"Nobody said a word except for Bruce and I, sitting next to each other saying, 'Oh s—! This is death. I guess this is how it goes down.' Then we burst into hysterical laughter at the idea that this was how we were going to die."

The engines soon kicked back on, though, and the flight returned to normal. ● METRO

# Moore hits the town — alone

Demi Moore was spotted out recently, shaking off her recent marital troubles to enjoy a star-studded Halloween party in Beverly Hills, according to Us Weekly.

"She was having fun, [and] she drank. But she wasn't the belle of the ball. Everyone at the party was drunk," a source says. Other guests at the bash included Cameron Diaz, Eli Roth and director Todd Phillips.

Moore, though, showed up alone, with Ashton Kutcher nowhere to be seen. ● METRO



► Demi Moore

# DIVORCING THE KARDASHIANS

## THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON  
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA



Wait — you didn't really think we were done with Kim Kardashian, did you? Far from it, cupcakes. When there's a four-hour reality TV special on your \$10 million wedding, you better believe there's weeks worth of gossip when you divorce 72 days later.

### Humphries is 'devastated'

While Kim's statement was clearly written by her publicist while she went shopping, Humphries was a little less guarded: "I love my wife and am devastated to learn she filed for divorce," he said in a statement to E! News on Monday evening. "I'm committed to this marriage and everything this covenant represents. I'm willing to do whatever it takes to make it work."

Are we starting to ... feel bad for a member of the Kardashian family? Make this stop. Make this stop right now.

### Won't somebody think of the diamonds?!

In the divorce filing, Kim asked that jewelry acquired during their mar-

## We'll bite, Jess

After Kardashiangate broke, Jessica Simpson must have finally realized no one was going to pay her the \$500,000 she was hoping to score for her pregnancy announcement.

► Monday night, she posted a photo of herself on her personal website in a tight mummy costume, holding her pregnant belly with the caption: "It's true, I'm going to be a mummy." Congrats, Jess — months ago.

riage remain hers, according to E! Online. The actual pieces are unspecified, and we don't put it past this girl to accumulate some serious gems in 72 days. That said, we're pretty sure this has something to do with that \$2 million diamond on her finger.

### Our favourite explanation

If we start explaining the divorce, are we implying that the marriage was real? No matter, this one is too good to pass up: Kim was annoyed that Humphries began "chasing fame" and trying to break into Hollywood, reports TMZ. Save it for your three-part "moving on" special, lady.

TODAY'S THE WORD IS WRITTEN BY  
MONICA WEYMOUTH



► Kim Kardashian

## Celebrity tweets



Can every-one buy my book please? I wanna quit the business and homeschool my kids real weird



@mindykaling



@MissKellyO

the most important thing a girl wears is her confidence!

@The\_Real\_IMAN

i don't watch much tv! but how many days of marriage we're talking about? i'm always so late with these pop culture news!



@DonaldGlover

P.S. If you're a racially ambiguous girl in an insurance ad, I will crush on you something stupid.



# Lohan to beg for mercy in court

Lindsay Lohan will reportedly try a new tactic at her probation hearing today: admitting she was wrong and begging for mercy.

According to TMZ, the troubled actress will fess up to skipping out on her previous community service obligations but maintain that she's now taking it seriously, having worked 24 hours at the L.A. County morgue in the last week.

It's a bold move, as at her last hearing the judge declared that if Lohan was found to have violated her probation, she'd go to jail.

● METRO



► Lindsay Lohan

## THE FUTURE YOU CHANGE COULD BE YOURS



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3  
life

## Travel in brief



Want first crack at the runs in Aspen? The Aspen Skiing Co. is offering an Ultimate Ski Pass that will let you have unlimited first tracks before chairlifts open to the public — for \$25,000. The exclusive passes also allow holders to meet members of the U.S. Women's Ski Team when they race in Aspen on the U.S. Thanksgiving weekend.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Hit the slopes early

► With temperatures dropping and snow falling, early ski season never looked so good



**SUSAN GREENWOOD**  
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

Two words: La Nina. It's a weather pattern, which simply put, dumps a ton of snow on North America — particularly in the north west and northern California. Last year it led to record snowfalls in many resorts — Mammoth saw 16.8 metres — while Fernie in British Columbia racked up 11 metres. If La Nina is back this year, and the signs are pointing to just that with colder-than-normal temperatures and heavy precipitation, then it's time to pick your resort.

Despite its relatively low altitude — the resort sits at 675 metres with the highest lift rising to 2,284 metres — Whistler, B.C., had a great season last year thanks to La Nina with 15.6 metres of snow falling.

Already the resort has seen remarkable snowfall with skiers riding the Blackcomb glacier as early as Oct. 6. Whistler is due to open on Nov. 24 and the resort is currently offering savings of up to 36 per cent on accommodation and lift pass packages if you book before Nov. 15. If it could get through the snow, that early bird could catch a great worm (whistlerblackcomb.com).

Keystone, Colo., will be throwing open its pistes on Nov. 4 with early-season skiers reaping the benefits of sophisticated snowmaking, sheltered tree runs and a superb snowpark without the crowds.

The resort shares the Epic pass with nearby



► The weather pattern La Nina is responsible for dumping tons of snow across North America. That's good news for powder hounds eager to hit the slopes.

Breckenridge, Beaver Creek, Vail and A-Basin so good snow is not hard to find (keystone.com).

Grand Targhee, Wyo. saw 14.8 metres fall last season and its dry powder is the stuff of legends. The resort is so confident you will love it, it even offers a refund on your lift pass

should your skiing be less than satisfactory (grandtarghee.com).

Alta, Utah has a base elevation of 2,600 metres, making skiing a definite possibility come Christmas, or before — it plans to open on Nov. 18 (alta.com).

If La Nina doesn't mate-

rialize you need a resort with good snowmaking, like Northstar-at-Tahoe, Calif. (northstaratahое.com). Not only has the resort increased its skiable terrain by 10 per cent this season, but 50 per cent of it is covered by snowmaking facilities, so powder turns are guaranteed.

## SOME OF THE BEST POWDER RESORTS IN NORTH AMERICA



### MOUNT BAKER Washington

► In 1999 Mt Baker held the record for the most snowfall in a season — 29 metres. Last year the small resort (only nine chairlifts) recorded 21.7 metres with 2.6 metres falling in November. Want powder? Head west. [mtbaker.us](http://mtbaker.us)



### REVELSTOKE British Columbia

► With over 1,214 hectares of skiable area and North America's greatest vertical drop, this modest resort near Golden is a powder-hound Mecca offering Heli and Cat Skiing from the village base. [revelstokemountainresort.com](http://revelstokemountainresort.com)

## Quick tips

### EAT

- Empire Burger, in Breckenridge, Colo., is the perfect place to stop off for a mid-day meal: solid yet inventive burgers, decent prices and close to the

bus stop. Job done. [empireburger.com](http://empireburger.com)

### STAY

- Located on British Columbia's 'Powder Highway' Revelstoke is the small resort with big powder stashes. If you've cash to splash the beautifully luxurious Bighorn lodge is new for 2011

and has its own spa, pool and 1,263 hectares of terrain on its doorstep. [bighornrevelstoke.com](http://bighornrevelstoke.com)

### LEARN

- If you fancy upping your ski game Custom Coaching in Beaver Creek, Colo., is launching an alpine ski coaching

school for 2011/12 tackling tree runs, deep powder, bumps and steepes. Instruction is in a maximum group of four so when you faceplant not many people will see. [beavercreek.com](http://beavercreek.com)

### EVENT

- Snow-blessed Californian mountain, Mammoth,

opens for business on Nov. 10 and is celebrating with three days of music, events and giveaways with The Big Winter Kick Off. Expect snowboard film premieres, pro-riders and après tunes provided by DJs and bands including The Black Lips. [mammothmountain.com](http://mammothmountain.com)



Gondola at Lake Louise ski resort to open for sightseeing rides this winter



# It's the great pumpkin

► Halloween may be over, and while all that candy quickly disappears, those gourds are still all over the place ► Time to carve up a few desserts — and keep your sweet tooth happy

## DINNER EXPRESS

EMILY RICHARDS  
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA



Here's a show-stopper dessert that uses delicious home-made

caramel to add some pizzazz in flavour. The caramel firms up to give a slightly chewy toffee-like texture to these tarts and becomes the perfect backdrop for the pumpkin mousse to sit on. Warm the remaining caramel sauce and drizzle it over the tarts before serving.



Caramel Pumpkin Spice Mousse Tarts

► This recipe makes 12 tarts.

### Caramel Pumpkin Spice Mousse Tarts Preparation:

**1** In a high-sided heavy saucepan, stir together sugar and water over medium heat, stirring until dissolved. Increase heat to medium-high, cover and bring to a rolling boil. Uncover and boil, without

**2** Pour about 1 tbsp (15 ml) of the caramel into

stirring for about 10 minutes or until deep amber colour. Swirl pan as necessary to cook evenly. Remove from heat and slowly add hot cream. Stir with long-handled spoon until blended and bubbles subside.

**3** In a large bowl, whip cream and icing sugar until they form stiff peaks. Using whisk, whisk in pumpkin, brown sugar, cinnamon,

bottom of each baked tart shells. Refrigerate for 15 minutes or until caramel is set on top and reserve remaining caramel sauce.

ginger and nutmeg until no streaks remain. Scrape mousse into piping bag fitted with star tip, pipe into caramel-filled tart shells and refrigerate for at least 1 hour or up to 1 day before serving. Tip: If you don't have a piping bag, fill a resealable plastic bag and pipe in filling or spoon into

prepared tart shells.

**4** Warm remaining caramel sauce and drizzle tarts before serving.

EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT [EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA/](http://EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA/) THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Cocktail of the week

### Pumpkin Pie Punch



This blend of spices, apple cider and ginger ale is delicious and rich, yet still refreshing. Leave it as is for kids, but add vodka or rum for an adult version.

- 1 can (398 ml/14 oz) pumpkin puree
- 250 ml (1 cup) packed dark brown sugar
- 5 ml (1 tsp) cinnamon
- 5 ml (1 tsp) ground ginger
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) nutmeg
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) ground cloves
- 2 l (8 cups) apple cider
- 2 l (8 cups) ginger ale

In a medium bowl, whisk together pumpkin, brown sugar, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg and cloves. Add apple cider and whisk until smooth and sugar is dissolved. Chill. In a punch bowl, gently stir together cider-pumpkin mixture and ginger ale. Serve with ice. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

► This traditional take on pumpkin pie shows its patriotic flavour with leaf-shaped pastry cut-outs as a fun crust

### Classic Pumpkin Pie Preparation:

**1** Heat oven to 230 C (450 F). Remove pie shells from freezer and let thaw at room temperature for 15 minutes.

**2** Remove 1 pie shell from foil onto clean, flat, lightly floured work surface. If cracks appear in

pastry, press together and repair using fingers moistened with water.

**3** Cut out small leaf shapes using a small cookie cutter. Transfer to a parchment-lined baking sheet and set aside.

**4** In a large bowl, mix together brown sugar, salt and spices. Stir in

remaining filling ingredients and beat until smooth. Pour into unbaked pie shell.

**5** Bake pie and pastry cut-outs in preheated oven for 10 minutes. Reduce temperature to 180 C (350 F) and continue baking cut-outs for an additional 5 minutes or until golden brown.

Continue baking pie for 40 to 45 minutes or until knife inserted in the centre of the pie comes out clean.

**6** Remove pie from oven and let cool. Top with pastry cut-outs just before serving.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/TENDERFLAKE

### Ingredients:

- 2 frozen deep-dish pie shells
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) lightly packed brown sugar
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
- 5 ml (1 tsp) cinnamon
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) ground nutmeg

- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) ground ginger
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) canned pureed pumpkin (not pumpkin pie filling)
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) light (5 per cent) cream

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# Have you made a major mistake?

► You're sick of the subject you've chosen to study and contemplating a switch ► Take a moment to mull this over



**NADIA  
ZAIDI**  
TALENTEGG.CA

Many students enter university knowing exactly what major they want to specialize in — at least they think they do.

But as students, we encounter new interests and challenges, giving us new-found perspective and knowledge. These insights can contradict ex-

isting notions and fall contrary to previous expectations.

I, for one, always knew that I wanted to study journalism, but I decided to enter university under another major so that I could work toward a greater understanding of my future program. In doing so, I built the proper knowledge, resources and mind-set required for journalism school.

But switching majors is not as easy as it seems. As someone who switched majors during my undergraduate degree, I know finding the right major for you can be difficult and overwhelming. There are many things to consider when doing so.

**Meeting requirements**  
Each program has differ-



ent requirements. Some programs are based on a grades-only application, whereas others require grades plus non-academic submissions, such as portfolios, or audio and tape submissions.

When I applied to Ryer-

son University's journalism program, I applied under the grades plus program, which required me to submit a select number of published works. I completed a lot of work outside school hours so that my portfolio would guarantee me acceptance into the program.

Switching to a more specialized program will demand a lot more than high grades. Additionally, if you are applying to a program that is in-demand, you should make sure that your grades surpass the minimum grade requirement to get into the program.

don't forget about the simple, yet crucial requirements, such as having a minimum number of field-related courses and making sure that you do not miss crucial deadlines for transferring.

## Sacrifice

Most people forget about the sacrifices that come with switching majors. When you decide to transfer programs you are agreeing to forfeit your existing major. Since program requirements vary, this could mean that the one or two years spent in your program will essentially be discredited and not counted toward your new major.

It also means having to start from scratch again. I was extremely happy to switch programs and be able to study my true calling. I was, however, a little disappointed when I realized that all my hard work was not going to be accounted for. It is a difficult reality to grapple with, especially if you are someone who wants to finish school as quickly as possible, or if you face major financial constraints.

Then there are other minor inconveniences such as the transfer process, which can be difficult and laborious. There are many forms to fill, fees to pay and places to drop things off to.

Ultimately, however, you have to be in a major that is complementary to your abilities and preferences. If you are unhappy with what you are studying, it is not worth spending your time and money continuing.

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## Not working out

If you find yourself in one of the following situations, you may want to consider switching majors:

- Failing the majority of your classes
- On academic probation more than once
- Always dropping classes
- Dreading school
- Unable to picture a career in your major

## Researching the program

Before deciding to switch programs, it is necessary to research exactly what your intended field of study entails. You can never know too much, so do your homework prior to switching majors.

Seek resources within your school; talk to department heads, people at the career centre and anyone who can help guide you in the right direction.

Do your research and

## All-important advice:

- Being in the right major is crucial to your success and future opportunities, but remember that an education is what you make of it.
- Make an appointment with your academic co-ordinator or someone else who can help you weigh the pros and cons, and determine the best course of action.

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## Hit on Jyles costs Sears one game

The CFL suspended defensive back Johnny Sears Jr. of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers one game without pay yesterday for his controversial hit on Toronto Argonauts quarterback Steven Jyles.

The league rendered the decision after Sears spoke with CFL commissioner Mark Cohon earlier in the day about levelling Jyles with a vicious head shot in Toronto's 27-22 road win over Winnipeg on Friday night.

Jyles had taken off on a run in the fourth quarter and was sliding feet-first when Sears drove his helmet into Jyles' head, which snapped back and bounced violently off the turf, briefly knocking the quarterback unconscious.

Sears was ejected and Jyles eventually was able to walk to the locker-room. However, Jyles remains questionable for Toronto's regular-season finale tomorrow at Rogers Centre against the Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

"While I appreciate the sincerity of the player in his conversation with me today, this was a reckless and dangerous hit that must be met with appropriate discipline," Cohon said in a statement. "In our league, with just an 18-game schedule, this is a significant and effective penalty."

Sears had the right to appeal the verdict but said in a statement he'll abide by the league's decision.

"I accept the commissioner's decision to suspend me and know I am accountable for the consequences of my actions on the field," Sears said.

The CFL also fined Argos offensive linemen Rob Murphy and Taylor Robertson unspecified amounts for voicing their displeasure regarding the hit on Twitter. Both are injured and didn't play in the game but watched it on TV and tweeted their thoughts afterwards.

An Argos spokesman said the club had no official comment about the league's decisions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# He's Mr. Flexibility

► Encarnacion to become utility man for Jays ► Will be DH, play left field

Edwin Encarnacion is going to be a jack of all trades for the Toronto Blue Jays next season.

General manager Alex Anthopoulos said yesterday that the 28-year-old infielder is going to spend more time as a designated hitter and even play some games in the outfield.

"The fact that Edwin can play multiple positions, and now he's going to be playing some left field in winter ball as well, will open up some flexibility," Anthopoulos told a media conference call. "As we sit here today, the role would primarily be DH but (if) we like he can play some first, play some third and we'd like to find out a little bit more about him in left field."

Toronto picked up its \$3.5-million US contract option on Encarnacion on Monday.

Encarnacion appeared in 134 games as a third baseman, first baseman and designated hitter last season. He hit .272 with 36 doubles, 17 home runs and 55 RBIs.

Although the Blue Jays hope Encarnacion can develop as an occasional outfielder, there are no plans to create a left-field-by-committee.

Eric Thames, Travis Snider and Canadian Adam Loewen all spent time in left field for Toronto last season. All three are left-handed, while Encarnacion is a righty.

"I wouldn't want to see him on the right-handed side of a platoon (in left field) strictly because it would limit the number of at-bats," said Anthopoulos. "If he's only facing left-



► Edwin Encarnacion will take on a wider range of roles next season, says Blue Jays GM Alex Anthopoulos.

### Rauch's future

The Jays declined Jon Rauch's \$3.75-million option on Monday, but GM Alex Anthopoulos says they haven't closed the door on bringing the 33-year-old relief pitcher back.

handlers it would severely limit the at-bats that he'd get over the course of a season.

"We'd like to try to get him at-bats wherever we can, unless we have the opportunity to upgrade as we go through the off-season."

How much time Encarnacion plays in left will be dictated by his perform-

- "It's just right now, at the option price, we didn't want to lock ourselves into that contract at this stage," Anthopoulos said.
- Rauch appeared in 53 games last season, posting a 5-4 record with 11 saves and a 4.85 earned-run average.

ance in winter ball and beyond.

"We'll get more of a look in spring training too, that's definitely something on our radar, that we'll have him playing (left) a little bit more, just to find out about him," said Anthopoulos. "We don't know for certain that he can do it, long term, but

we think it's definitely an option."

However, the Blue Jays GM wouldn't commit to Encarnacion being a permanent fixture as designated hitter.

"We still have the flexibility if the DH spot comes open or someone becomes available, to go down that path," said Anthopoulos. "I will say it's very low on the priority list and we have a lot of other areas we'd rather address first."

"We do have the flexibility to get somebody else, if we want, in that DH spot."

Encarnacion split time at DH last season with Adam Lind, David Cooper and Canadian Mark Teahen. THE CANADIAN PRESS

# 4

sports

### Quoted



**"I have gained a better understanding (of) how I need to continue to play the game to help my team win."**

DETROIT LIONS DEFENSIVE TACKLE NDAMUKONG SUH, AFTER MEETING WITH NFL COMMISSIONER ROGER GOODELL AND HIS STAFF YESTERDAY TO CLARIFY QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS PLAY AND THE GAME. SUH REQUESTED THE BYE-WEEK SESSION IN NEW YORK AT NFL HEADQUARTERS TO TALK ABOUT THE FLAGS AND FINES HE HAS RECEIVED.

## Original start date to NBA season arrives with no lockout resolution

The original start date to the NBA season has arrived with progress still stalled in the negotiations to end the lockout. A person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press yesterday that no further talks had been scheduled yet.

Players and owners made progress on a number of issues related to the salary cap system over two days last week. But the negotiations fell apart again on the third day, when the sides revisited the revenue-sharing split.

Owners are insistent on a 50-50 split, while players have proposed reducing their guarantee from 57 per cent down to 52.5, which they say would transfer more than \$1.5 billion US to owners over six years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Lost openers

Three games had been scheduled for last night.

- The Mavericks would have opened the defence of their first NBA title at home against Derrick Rose and the Chicago Bulls. Houston was at Utah, with Kevin Durant's Thunder at Kobe Bryant's Lakers.



Scan code for more sports news.

# 5 drive

## By comparison

### Ford Fusion

Base price: \$21,600  
Popular four-door offered with manual gearbox, plus fuel-sipping hybrid version.

### Honda Accord

Base price: \$26,200  
Comfy cabin plus excellent road manners makes this a fun-to-drive sedan.

### 2013 Chevrolet Malibu

Base price: \$25,000 (est.)  
New sedan has four cylinders and a part-hybrid model.

WHEELBASE MEDIA

## Engine

Very little has changed beneath the hood of both gasoline-engine Camrys, although Toyota now rates the standard-issue 178-horsepower 2.5-litre four-cylinder at 8.2 l/100 km in the city and 5.6 on the highway, compared to the 2011 model's 9.0/6.0 numbers. Meanwhile, the carryover 268-horsepower 3.5-litre V-6 achieves a claimed 9.7/6.4 city/highway, compared with 10.6/6.8 before.

## Interior

The interior is where this Camry makes a definitive statement. The organically-shaped dashboard presents a layered appearance and lacks the former droopy look.

As well, the dash and control panel's shiny bits added to up-level models are tastefully done. Buyers can now choose from four different upholstery finishes, depending on the model, from woven fabric on base models to leather with faux suede seat covers at the luxury end of the scale.

## Gas-saving Hybrid

Easily the most impressive fuel-efficiency gain originates from the new Camry Hybrid. Toyota has installed a 156-horsepower 2.5-litre four-cylinder engine that replaces the 147-horse 2.4-litre. The 2.5 functions in tandem with an electric motor. Most importantly, fuel-economy numbers improve to 4.5 l/100 km in the city and 4.9 highway, versus 5.7 city and highway for the 2011 Hybrid. Additionally, the more compact battery system located behind the rear seat means more trunk space.



# What you always get in a Camry ... and more



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It has been a rocky road for the Toyota faithful as the company recovers from natural disaster and a rash of very public — and extensive — recalls that threw into question its normally cut-above-the-rest reputation.

So, the question is whether the new seventh-

generation Camry and Camry Hybrid will get you down to the dealership to sign on the dotted line.

Honestly, it should, based on a number of key incremental improvements to fuel economy and interior quality in particular.

Despite the best efforts of the Honda Accord, Chevrolet Malibu and Hyundai Sonata, the Cam-

ry has owned the numero uno spot outright for the past decade.

And it has managed this feat by playing it safe with styling, steadily improving its safety and technology features and offering its loyal owners plenty of cabin comfort and refinement.

For 2012, the Camry's oh-so-subtle physical changes include a pointier

front end, chiselled front fenders and an accent crease extending across the doors and fenders.

Compared to a similarly contented 2011 base model, the list price has been reduced by \$1,600. You might consider that a return-to-full-strength bonus, however for the conservative Camry, saving money is always in fashion.

## Toyota Camry

- **Type:** Four-door, front-wheel-drive mid-size sedan.
- **Engines (hp):** 2.5-litre DOHC I4 (178); 3.5-litre DOHC V6 (268); 2.5-litre DOHC I4 (156) combined with 105-kilowatt electric motor (200 net combined).
- **Transmissions:** Six-speed automatic; continuously variable (Hybrid).

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## KOREAN, GERMAN BRANDS DOMINATE AJAC COMPETITION

## AUTO PILOT



MIKE GOETZ  
DRIVE  
@METRONEWS.CA

The envelope please.

No, not that one. It's from Parking Tag Operations and I don't need to see it. Yes, the other one, which reveals the "Best New" vehicles for 2012, as adjudicated by the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC).

Hopefully by now everyone is already well aware of AJAC's annual TestFest — one of the most unique and thorough "car of the year" evaluation programs on the planet. The 2012 model-year edition just wrapped up last week in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., and if you scan the list of category winners, you'll notice that Korean and German brands dominate.

But there were many close races...

In Small Car Over \$21K, winner Hyundai Elantra beat out second-place Ford Focus by only five points (695 vs. 690). Focus beat Elantra on several counts, notably cargo, acceleration and safety, but with an as-tested price several thousands of dollars above the Elantra, it couldn't overcome the price factor.



DAVID SINGH/METRO

► The 2012 Jaguar XKR-S was one of the cars that was evaluated at TestFest. It was classified in the Best New Prestige Car Over \$75,000 category.



MICHELLE SIU FOR AUTOMOBILE JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

► The BMW 1 Series M Coupe won Best New Sports/Performance Car over \$50,000 in AJAC's TestFest 2012 Canadian Car of the Year Awards last week.

AJAC applies a price factor to each vehicle, on the assumption that a higher-priced vehicle should be better. The price factor is different for each category; it plays a bigger role in price-sensitive categories like compact, and less so in categories like luxury and prestige, etc.

On the podium for Family Car Over \$30K were two hybrids, Optima and Sonata, and the electric Chevrolet Volt. The Volt

garnered an almost perfect fuel score, and huge marks for engine smoothness, but with an as-tested price of \$44,673, it was thousands more than both Korean hybrids.

Chrysler 300S trailed the Luxury winner, Mercedes-Benz C-Class C350 4Matic, by only four points. The 300S was surprisingly sporty, but so was the C350, which was also super solid in every other parameter.

Mercedes-Benz also won

in Prestige (S Class S350 BlueTEC). But many journalists were mesmerized by third-place finisher, Jaguar XKR-S — the fastest and most powerful production sports car ever produced by Jaguar. Too narrowly focused and pricey, to prevail this year, but my goodness she flies and is easy on the eyes.

BMW I Series M Coupe had the biggest margin of victory of any category winner this year (16 points).

There were only three entries in the SUV Under \$35 category this year, and all of them came from Chrysler. But Dodge Journey's win over Jeep Wrangler and Jeep Compass is not a shallow one — it achieved a relatively high SUV score (652).

In the SUV \$35-\$60K category, voters were clearly smitten with the styling and capability of the Range Rover Evoque, but the VW Touareg TDI prevailed with better cargo capacity and its super-stellar diesel powertrain.

Over in SUV Over \$60K, BMW X3 beat out its next closest rival, Mercedes-Benz M Class, by only two points.

Two points was the same slim margin of victory for Hyundai Accent over Kia Rio5 in Small Car Under \$21K.

They share a platform so we shouldn't be surprised that if one did well, the other would too.

## Winners

AJAC "Best New" Category  
Winners for 2012

- Small Car Under \$21K  
Hyundai Accent
- Small Car Over \$21K  
Hyundai Elantra
- Family Car Under \$30K  
Kia Optima LX
- Family Car Over \$30K  
Hyundai Sonata Hybrid
- Luxury Car  
Mercedes-Benz C-Class C350 4Matic
- Sports & Performance Under \$50K  
Hyundai Veloster
- Sports & Performance Over \$50K  
BMW 1 Series M Coupe
- Prestige Over \$75K  
Mercedes-Benz S-Class S350 BlueTEC 4Matic
- SUV Under \$35K  
Dodge Journey
- SUV Over \$35-60K  
VW Touareg TDI
- SUV Over \$60K  
BMW X3

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# The Volt's true colours

► How does Chevrolet's much-hyped car fare on real roads?

**GARRY SOWERBY**  
FOR WHEELBASE MEDIA

I hate to see the end of summer. Days grow shorter and thoughts of winter weather fouling my ability to putter with a car in the driveway after work have a haunting effect.

But one consolation of the onset of winter is autumn, when skies are clear, humidity is a memory and leaves on the trees flash the countryside into a pallet of colours that takes the breath away.

This autumn I decided to treat my wife, Lisa Calvi, to a Fall Colours road trip and what better place to do it than New England, where back roads and small towns are alive with crisp mornings and splendid fall foliage.

And what better car to drive than a 2012 Chevy Volt, the electric vehicle Chevy is just rolling out in Canada.

It would also be a



► Note the beautiful fall foliage of New England.

chance to see if this car, with its so-called "extended-range" capability, can cut it on a backcountry road trip. The meandering route would run about 600 kilometres from Burlington, Vt., to Bar Harbor, Me. There were a few kilometres of Interstate, but the Volt would spend most of its time on secondary roads.

The basis of Volt's mobility is no secret. It's powered by a 149-horse electric motor. The large T-

shaped battery below the floor provides enough juice to get the stylish four-passenger sedan about 65 kilometres, at which point an onboard 1.4-litre gasoline engine fires up to generate the electricity to extend the range another 500-plus kilometres (the Volt costs about \$42,500 to start).

Although the system adds significant weight and cost to the car, this is somewhat offset by the elimination of that nasty



► The Volt is the only electric on the market that will cover 600 kilometres in two days. And there's no "range anxiety."

side effect other electric vehicles are cursed with: range anxiety. No pesky feelings in the pit of your stomach that you are running out of propulsion and the only way to get it back is to find a place to plug in and wait hours until the battery is recharged.

Fact is the Volt's main competitor, the Nissan Leaf, would never be able to take a 600-kilometre two-day road trip because it would require about three full days of charging using a household plug-in.

Lisa and I fly into Burlington, Vt., and pick up the Crystal Red Volt. It's fully charged and we drive to Topnotch Resort in Stowe, Vt., on electric power. It's peppy, quiet, comfortable and handles surprisingly well on the back roads.

That night, after plugging into a 110-volt outlet in the parking lot, we discuss our options over a romantic dinner. Neither of us has ever driven to the top of New Hampshire's Mount Washington, although I've seen those "This car climbed Mount Washington" bumper stickers for decades.

The next morning we pass on the many activities available at the cosy Topnotch Resort. So much for the horseback riding, fall hikes, the corn maze or getting pampered at the resort's full service spa.

We're off and half way to our overnight destination I realize the Volt's gas-powered generator has taken over and I didn't even notice.

Turn down the prerequisite road-trip companion

XM Radio and I can hear the engine slightly at times.

The next day, we need to drive about 350 kilometres to get to Bar Harbor on the Atlantic Ocean.

Who cares if we can only get half way up Mount Washington because of freezing rain and icy roads? Who cares if the sun is not shining and Hurricane Irene has ransacked the fall foliage? The Volt has taught this old road warrior a thing or two about the future.

Chevy's answer to the Little Black Dress of vehicles, the Volt, makes it possible to be environmentally conscious, cut down on fossil-fuel consumption and not need a second car when the call of the open road needs answering.

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# Sportage provides a sturdy SUV ride

## SECOND GEAR



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Looking for a second-hand family hauler crossover?

The second-generation Kia Sportage is worth a check.

It's a five-seat compact ute that was available with four or six-cylinder power.

Sizing was in roughly the same ballpark as the Honda CR-V, Toyota RAV4 and Ford Escape.

The second-generation Sportage's lifespan on our shores ran from model years 2005 to 2009, with a mandatory makeover and refresh part way through.

2005 to '09 Kia Sportage



### Engine

Look for a two-litre, 140-horsepower four-cylinder or a 2.7-litre V-6 with 173. Automatic or manual transmissions and front or four-wheel drive were available.



### What owners like

Sportage owners enjoy a sturdy ride, compact handling and parking dynamics, confidence on slippery roads and plenty of real-world versatility. Overall interior and exterior styling are also rated highly, as is fuel efficiency with the four-cylinder engine.



### What owners dislike

Complaints tend to centre mainly around poor engine performance, bare-bones equipment levels on low-end models, and excessive wind-noise at higher speeds.



### Common issues

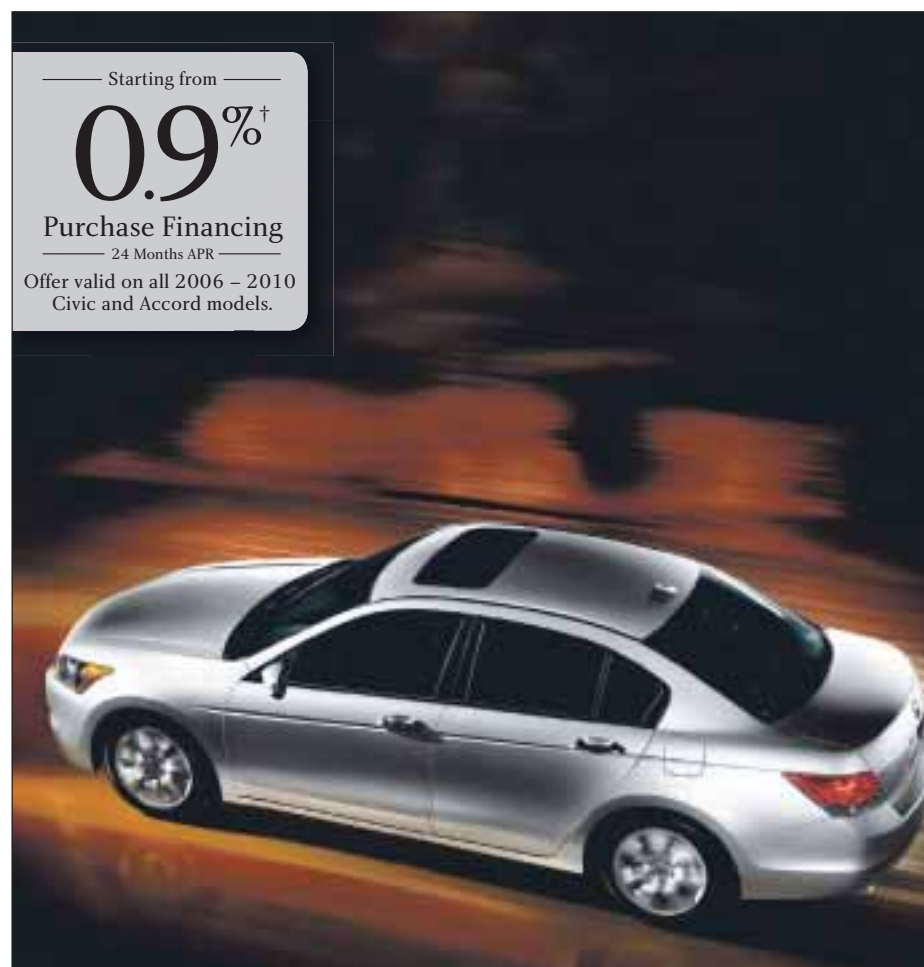
Ensure the cruise control and air conditioning work properly.

If the engine seems to "sputter" or deliver power in a "lumpy" fashion, the culprit could be a clogged fuel filter or a bad engine control sensor. Note that a mechanic can scan the engine computer for potential engine sensor issues.

Models with the automatic transmission that shift harshly or abruptly could be suffering from a computer-related problem as well.

### Verdict

Where reliability is concerned, the Sportage looks like a solid second-hand bet. Thanks to relatively low resale values, one won't be required to sever an appendage when it comes time to pay.



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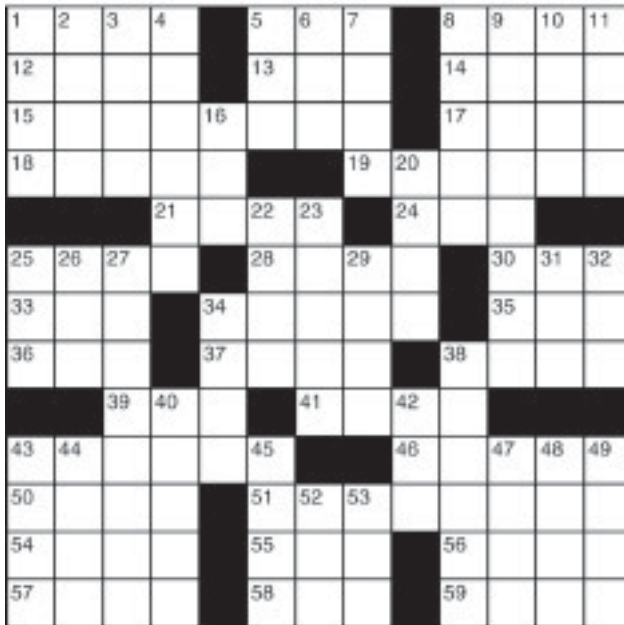




## Crossword

## Across

- 1 — and crafts  
5 Life story, for short  
8 Rim  
12 Jump  
13 Toss in  
14 Caboose's position  
15 Excited commotion  
17 Muhammad and Laila  
18 TV oldie, "Kate & —"  
19 Used-car deal, e.g.  
21 Small barrel  
24 Kitten's call  
25 Snatch  
28 Places  
30 Carte lead-in  
33 Tackle moguls  
34 Gold measure  
35 In medias —  
36 Crony  
37 Basin accessory  
38 Pelican's pride  
39 Indivisible  
41 Mimic  
43 Ivanhoe's love  
46 Bra seller's man-nequin  
50 "Sad to say, ..."  
51 Lunchbox item, often  
54 Catcher's aid  
55 Snoop  
56 Run-down residential area  
57 Cookware  
58 Moment  
59 "Desire Under the —"  
**Down**  
1 Actress Jessica  
2 Actual  
3 Lofty



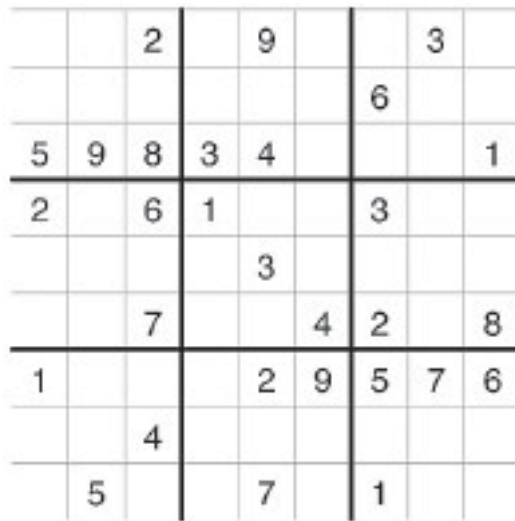
- 4 Repair, as film  
5 Scrooge's cry  
6 Altar affirmative  
7 Smell  
8 Obliterate  
9 First State  
10 Author Sheehy  
11 Gaelic  
16 Verily  
20 Send out  
22 Cabbage salad  
23 "M\*A\*S\*H" setting  
25 Recipe meas.  
26 Alias (Abbr.)  
27 Electric power unit  
29 Complain repeat-

- edly  
31 Meadow  
32 Request  
34 Acute  
38 Shop aimlessly  
40 Birds' homes  
42 Schedule abbr.  
43 Freeway access  
44 Hodgepodge  
45 Venomous vipers  
47 Streamlet  
48 Icky pond surface  
49 Resistance units  
52 Exist  
53 Big Apple letters

## ► Yesterday's answer



## Sudoku



## How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

## Yesterday's answer ►

3	7	9	1	4	2	8	5	6
1	6	4	3	8	5	2	9	7
2	8	5	7	8	9	4	1	3
8	4	6	9	7	1	5	3	2
5	1	3	6	2	8	7	4	9
9	2	7	4	5	3	6	8	1
8	3	2	8	9	4	1	7	5
4	5	1	2	3	7	9	6	8
7	9	8	5	1	6	3	2	4

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*Beautiful - When I said you had this guys heart I meant it, I do love you. The problem is you took it and flew away with it. Now i'm in Nova Scotia, heartless. I know you might not see this but I just want to say i'm still very deeply/strongly in love with you. I'm waiting by for you counting the moments until you return, until you bring this guys heart back and cherish it with him, together, as one. I love you Beautiful forever and always <3*

FROM LOVE, YOUR E-VAN

*Jessica Goyette - I love you so much baby your my best friend and someone I can always count on for having my back. We just recently passed our one year and I'm so glad to be with you. Your everything I want and your the girl that helps me keep my head high. I love you so much forever xoxo <3*

BRADEN SEABROOK

## Today's horoscope

♈ **Aries** March 21-April 20 You have no fear at the moment and will follow your desires wherever they might lead.  
♉ **Taurus** April 21-May 21 Don't give away what should remain yours.  
♊ **Gemini** May 22-June 21 Cosmic activity in your opposite sign encourages you to accept that other people's opinions and your opinions differ in legitimate ways.  
♋ **Cancer** June 22-July 22 Watch out you don't get carried away with your own brilliance today.  
♌ **Leo** July 23-Aug. 23 Today's cosmic developments will do wonders

for your confidence and encourage you to believe that anything is possible.  
♍ **Virgo** Aug. 24-Sept. 22 You may not be the most emotional member of the zodiac but you will feel deeply for someone today.  
♎ **Libra** Sept. 23-Oct. 23 There is a danger that in your eagerness to get ahead and get the most from each and every situation you will overlook some small but important detail.  
♏ **Scorpio** Oct. 24-Nov. 22 It's not like you to be free and easy with money but you are in one of those moods where you really

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca)

don't care  
♐ **Sagittarius** Nov. 23-Dec. 21 You need a challenge that will bring out the best in you  
♑ **Capricorn** Dec. 22-Jan. 20 There is no limit to what you can accomplish now  
♒ **Aquarius** Jan. 21-Feb. 18 What happens over the next two or three days will open your eyes to new possibilities  
♓ **Pisces** Feb. 19-March 20. You must play by the rules today, even if you know you can get away with cutting corners.

● SALLY BROMPTON

## Caption contest



"I used to be a hermit crab until I decided to cut loose!"

TOM S

MARKUS SCHREIBER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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